

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement A

Answers

A pronoun usually refers to a noun or another pronoun called its *antecedent*.

- 17p.** A pronoun should agree in number and gender with its antecedent.

EXAMPLES Dolores lost **her** scarf.

The **snake** shed **its** skin.

Shoppers filled **their** baskets with food.

Each **one** of the teenagers paid for **his or her** ticket.

USAGE

EXERCISE A In each sentence, underline the pronoun or pronouns in parentheses that agree in number and gender with the antecedent.

Example 1. High in the tree's branches, the bird built (*their, its*) nest.

1. Billy loaned (*their, his*) bike to Phillip.
2. The captain of the girls' softball team accepted (*her, his or her*) award.
3. In the evening the chickens return to (*its, their*) roost.
4. The cats sunned (*itself, themselves*) contentedly in the grassy yard.
5. The microscopes in the science lab still have (*its, their*) price tags attached.
6. The workers at the pizza parlor were wearing (*its, their*) new uniforms.
7. On Father's Day, the children performed a one-act play for (*his or her, their*) dad.
8. Carpenter ants sometimes make (*its, their*) home in your home.
9. The puppy entertained (*itself, themselves*) with an old tennis ball.
10. The hamster slept in (*its, their*) empty food dish.

EXERCISE B On each of the lines provided, write a pronoun or a pair of pronouns that will correctly complete the sentence.

Example 1. The river overflowed its banks.

11. The siblings planned a surprise party for their parents' anniversary.
12. The pig raised its voice in a surprised squeal.
13. The captains of each team accepted their award.
14. Julie was proud of her older sister.
15. The young boy told himself not to be afraid of the dark.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement B

Answers

- 17q.** Use a singular pronoun to refer to *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, somebody, someone, or something*.
- 17r.** Use a plural pronoun to refer to *both, few, many, or several*.
- 17s.** The indefinite pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* may be singular or plural, depending on how they are used in a sentence.

EXAMPLES **Everybody** in the group wanted **his or her** own map.

Few of the photographers developed **their** own film.

Some of the bread **was** eaten, and **some** of the bananas **were** eaten, too.

EXERCISE Underline the pronoun or pronouns in parentheses that correctly complete each sentence.

Example 1. During a fire drill, no one is allowed to remain in (*their, his or her*) classroom.

- Many of the mice are sleeping in (*their, its*) cage.
- Someone with muddy shoes didn't wipe (*his or her, their*) feet on the mat.
- At my grandmother's deli, few ordered the daily special for (*his or her, their*) meal.
- Any of the jewelry found should be returned to (*its, their*) owner.
- Any of the jewels found should be returned to (*its, their*) owner.
- Everything in the rooms was in (*their, its*) proper place.
- Most of the desks have had (*their, its*) wooden surfaces revarnished.
- Both of my sisters are successful in (*her, their*) careers.
- Each of the teachers voted for (*his or her, their*) choice for student council.
- Contrary to expectation, none of the treasure was worth (*their, its*) weight in gold.
- This year most of the girls are bringing (*her, their*) lunch from home.
- All of the boys helped clean (*his, their*) locker room.
- In my opinion, either of the candidates would represent (*their, his or her*) district well.
- Several of the chess players displayed (*their, his or her*) trophies in the case at school.
- Is anybody finished with (*their, his or her*) assignment yet?
- Anyone would enjoy riding (*their, his or her*) bike on a beautiful day like today.
- None of the children could fit into (*their, his or her*) coats this year.
- Both of the girls needed new shoes for (*her, their*) PE classes.
- All of my family wants to eat dinner at (*our, its*) grandparents' house.
- When the sun rose, several of the hikers packed (*his or her, their*) gear and started up the trail.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement C

ANSWERS

17t. Use a singular pronoun to refer to two or more singular antecedents joined by *or* or *nor*.

EXAMPLE **Bill or Buddy** will lend **his** microscope to the class.

17u. Use a plural pronoun to refer to two or more antecedents joined by *and*.

EXAMPLE **Bill and Buddy** will lend **their** microscope to the class.

USAGE

EXERCISE A In each sentence, underline the pronoun or pronouns in parentheses that agree in number and gender with its antecedent.

Example 1. Neither Mr. Smith nor Ms. Macelli reached (*their, his or her*) classroom on time.

1. Ants and flies found (*its, their*) way to our picnic.
2. Either Shari or April will give (*their, her*) oral report next.
3. Both Shelley and Stella promised to bring (*her, their*) cameras.
4. Did Martin or Jorge volunteer (*their, his*) time to the tutoring program?
5. Neither Paul nor Bonnie was surprised by (*their, his or her*) exam grades.
6. Mom and Dad called and said (*he, they*) are picking up pizza for us.
7. A squirrel or a bird must have found (*its, their*) way into my berry patch.
8. The band members and the fans cheered (*his or her, their*) team.
9. Will Thea or Sandra bring (*their, her*) flute?
10. Neither Jared nor Jill wants (*their, his or her*) picture on the poster.

EXERCISE B On each of the lines provided, write a pronoun or a pair of pronouns that will correctly complete the sentence.

Example 1. Either Grandma or Mom will loan her coat to me.

11. Patricia and Parker took their younger brother to the park.
12. Neither Cheryl nor Kristen finished her sculpture.
13. Monty and Ty promised that they would lead the discussion.
14. Natalie or Tabitha will tell her concerns to the principal.
15. Leo and Penny said that they will be here by noon.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement D

Answers

/v. A pronoun that refers to a collective noun has the same number as the noun.

A collective noun is singular when it refers to the group as a unit and plural when it refers to the individual members of the group.

SINGULAR The **committee** held **its** meeting in Mr. Park's classroom.

PLURAL The **committee** took **their** seats promptly.

USAGE

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun in parentheses that agrees in number with the collective noun.

Example 1. The valuable collection resides in (its, their) fireproof case.

1. The brood followed closely behind (its, their) mother. *or its*
2. Inside the tent, the family chose positions for (its, their) sleeping bags.
3. The new set was placed on (its, their) shelf in the china cabinet.
4. The jury argued among (itself, themselves).
5. Before the show the chorus warmed up (its, their) voices.
6. This cluster, said the jeweler, has value in (its, their) antiquity.
7. The litter occupied (itself, themselves) by running, jumping, and barking.
8. The jury went (its, their) separate ways for lunch.
9. During the holidays, her family decorates (its, their) house together.
10. The emergency crew congratulated (itself, themselves) on the rescue.

EXERCISE B On each of the lines provided, write a pronoun that will correctly complete the sentence.

Example 1. The cleaning crew signed their time sheets.

11. Once out of the harbor, the fleet adjusted its speed.
12. The audience took their seats.
13. In winter the pack foraged for food near their den. *or its*
14. The pack hunted on their own occasionally.
15. The salary committee gave themselves raises.